

Present: Karen Evirgen, Y3 Y1 and Saplings, Gayle Harrison Y3, Lisa White Y3, Anita Wilson Y1, Rebecca Ellis, Y1 and Saplings, Vicky McQueen YR and Y3, Caroline Wise, YR and Y3, Sarah Best YR and Y3, Helen Rossetti, YR and Y3

1. Terms of reference were presented to the forum.

AC said this was a way of finding out what parents think, when we are planning something new, we can ask how parents feel about it. Improving communication together and sharing information and skills, including accessing the untapped skills out there in our parent body, were also key aspects of the forum's work. If there is a particular problem involving an individual child or member of staff however, it was discussed that this would not be appropriate to talk about at the forum. It would meet every term and everyone can come along – we would hope that parents would sign up to come to every meeting, so that a more meaningful dialogue would happen. These were approved by those attending the meeting.

- 2. Parent questionnaire** will be going out in paper form. The same questions that Ofsted have. Prior to it going out it would be good to have a discussion about this to see how everyone feels about it.

a- Safety and happiness at school - One parent commented that their child has always been happy at The Firs. Another said they were happy that their child was safe. One suggested that perhaps Pine can have a safe corner as children can miss their family and pictures of the family that the children could have may help them to settle. There was Talk about letting children know that they can talk about how they feel and it's ok to do so. It was discussed that Siblings in school like to see each other. 'Siblings day' was suggested but perhaps not naming it 'siblings day' as some children do not have siblings. Feedback about what has happened at playtime would be helpful. One child had told their parent 'No-one would play with me at lunchtime'. AC suggested having a word with SAC so that she can look into this because we really cared about helping with these sorts of problems. KM talked about our staff meeting and any concerns get flagged up for staff on playground duty and then lunchtime supervisors are informed. Always concerns flagged up to teacher with the SS.

b- Children's progress – some parents felt it was difficult to tell how their child was progressing because they do not get enough information. Some felt that the 'Fish book' did not give enough information and one parent commented on the fact that her child gets one reading book a week and the spellings, outside of working with their daughter, the parent felt that she did not know much.

AC talked about how many parent evenings we have and how often reports go out and this was fairly standard throughout most schools. One parent commented that she felt the teacher would speak to her about her child if there was a problem in making progress. If there was an issue with behaviour, we would know. Any problems with school work, we would want to know what the development points would be.

On the opposite side of that one parent commented that her child came home and asked about something and the parent emailed the teacher and got an email back in 20 minutes. One parent said that it feels like a long gap between parent evenings. Children do not talk very much about what

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they are doing in the classroom. AC said that the 'What are we learning' sheets would be coming out this Friday. Parents suggested putting something up on the window so that they know what their child is doing at school. Even on noticeboard, it would be good to have something in there too while waiting for the gates to open.

C- Homework - Learning logs in Y3 and 4 - it was felt that if it was more directed to link with what they did that week it would be better, parents would be able to help their child more. AC spoke about the grid approach being as a result of feedback from parents that sometimes it was not convenient to work on the learning log if they were away that weekend so the aim was to allow the homework to fit in around family life. AC said that we want parents to choose when they want to do the learning log. Some parents said that they liked this approach. A parent commented that sometimes if the learning log is handed in later, she felt bad as a mum. AC spoke about homework being tricky as some parents feel it is too much and some too little. One parent said that she would be happy with spellings and times tables for homework as this was the foundation. One parent said that if homework wasn't done by a particular time, the school wouldn't come down on you. It's not the child's fault if homework is not done. One parent said that they didn't like the grid. Part of that grid you could have 2 or 3 tasks and you could choose what you want to do. She said she thought things can sometimes be a bit much. If you are a Mum working full time it's hard to organise what you need and have the time to complete it. Would like the craft things to be at school and not at home.

A parent said that she wants to understand how they are taught. RWI sessions for parents were really valuable. Maths workshops would also be very useful. AC to look at whether the Calculation policy is available to parents and/or some support materials that can go home.

d- Behaviour and bullying – parents commented that this was dealt with very quickly – 'knocked on the head'. One parent said that her eldest went through an issue in Y4 – as a parent it is heart breaking but the school dealt with it very well. Bullying is a word that is sometimes used too much, one parent commented. A parent said that MDS are known to say 'go and play with someone else' rather than finding out what's wrong. AC commented that this is not what the school would want and SAC said that this has been addressed and that a more detailed conversation should happen to find out exactly what has happened if a child asks for help.

e- Responding to concerns - Emailing the teachers now is great. AC spoke about the Staff code of conduct. In this document it states that staff will respond to emails within 36 hours during the working week, it's a choice as to whether the staff respond at the weekend but they are not expected to by the school. One parent said that if you want to speak confidentially to a teacher it's better by email but making arrangements for a meeting with teachers has never been a problem. Communications re concerns are very good several parents agreed. One parent said that she raised a concern at a parents' evening and nothing had been done. AC suggested that she arrange to see the teacher.

f- Communication - One parent said that the School Google calendar was great as it can sync with your phone. 'Dates are published in advance' she said, 'so everyone should know what's going on'. Parents said that the website had a lot of good content but that it was not easy to navigate around. AC said he would talk to Mrs Ashby (ICT administrator) about this.

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3. **End of day arrangements** - A parent asked about the arrangements at the end of the day and mentioned how difficult it can be to access the site when it is very crowded. As the meeting had run out of time, it was decided to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.
4. **Future meetings.** It was agreed at the meeting that initially it would be helpful to have some additional meetings, including another this term to continue discussing some of the points covered in today's meeting.
5. **Future agenda items:**
 - Firs Website
 - In and out of school – collection and pick up arrangements.
 - Christmas performance times.
 - Setting up an email group
 - More options for working parents who want to come to the forum – evening meetings.
6. **Date of next meeting:- Thursday 21st February at 2pm in the Hollows.**